

have health insurance. They are smack dab in the middle. They are the people working for small businesses, and their children and they are the ones who are uninsured.

If we are going to fill the gaps in America and provide for coverage, that is the way we have to go. What are our goals? Our goals are simply stated. We want to have health care reform which helps the middle class in America. We want to make sure at the end of the day we have stable costs so people know what they can anticipate, so the costs will not run them out of health insurance coverage even if they lose a job. We want to provide a helping hand, for example, to lower income people so they can buy health insurance, giving them a tax break and giving them an incentive. We want to provide incentives and opportunities for businesses so they have the right to shop for the right health insurance coverage. We want to make sure they have stable coverage so these health insurance companies cannot waive the magic wand and all of a sudden they are not covered by health insurance anymore.

Stable costs, stable coverage, and make sure at the end of the day we have quality care available for all Americans.

One element we should be rewarding that the current system does not reward is preventive care.

There are a lot of things we can do to reduce the cost of health care in America and improve the health of individuals and families. We need to create incentives for that to happen. There are ways to do that.

Steve Burd is the CEO of Safeway and of Dominick's. He has a plan for his management employees where they can voluntarily sign up. They go through a health screening, they identify any risk that person might have: being overweight or diabetic or high blood pressure, high cholesterol, things of that nature, smoking. Then they create a little profile and say: What we would like you to do is move toward more fitness, better diet, monitoring your diabetes, monitoring your cholesterol and your blood pressure.

As they show improvement, they earn cash incentives. In other words, they pay them extra money if they get healthier. What has happened to the health insurance costs at Safeway in the last 3 years? It has been flat. It has not increased. Across the board in other companies across America on average it is has gone up 38 percent. So they are on to something.

By incentivizing employees to get healthier, they not only have better lives but better health outcomes and lower costs for their company. Why is that not a national model? Why are we not doing that across the board saying we are going to move toward a healthier country so we have fewer health care costs?

Second, we have to eliminate the incentives for piling on medical bills. Ever had a member of your family go

to the hospital for a day or two or a week, then a month later they send you the bill? Were you amazed at how thick it was? You turn it page after page and say: My goodness, thank goodness I have health insurance—if you do.

But if you do not, you look at the bottom line and say: I do not know how I am going to pay for these things. We reward doctors and hospitals for piling on every single line on the page. Every single line is a profitmaker, instead of saying the real goal is wellness and making certain people get well from diseases and illnesses. So we need to create a new incentive in the way we have health care in America, to take the best and brightest women and men who serve as our medical professionals working at these hospitals and give them the incentive for the best outcome.

Senator KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota was here a few moments ago, and she talked about the Mayo Clinic for which I have the highest regard and highest respect. This is a clinic which gets some of the best results in medicine in America at the lowest cost. How do they do it? What is so miraculous or magic up there in Rochester, MN?

Well, they pay their physicians a salary. The physician does not make an extra buck if he orders an extra test. The physician, instead, looks at that patient and says: I think we need three specialists in this room right now, and let's see if we can work out a plan for wellness. They come together and they work it out. It is not a matter of how many lines there are on a page and final billing. It is a matter of that person going home well, and it works. They have reduced cost, and it happens across America. We have seen it many places such as the Cleveland Clinic, and so many other places have been noted as examples of centers of excellence. That is what I want to see in my State of Illinois. That is what every State and every Senator should be working for.

I will close by saying, let's not fall into the trap of this health care reform debate and let the buzzwords and the words that infuriate people stop us from a meaningful, honest debate. This has to be patient-centered health care not government-centered health care.

We are not talking about rationing. We are talking about a rational health care system that is geared toward wellness and disease prevention. We have to make certain that at the end of the day we allow people to choose their own doctors and their own hospitals and their own health insurance plans and to keep the health insurance plan they have if they want to.

We have to help small business provide the kind of health insurance coverage they want to have for themselves as owners and for their employees as well. At the end of the day, we can improve this system. It is the biggest single issue challenge Congress has faced in at least 40 years, maybe in a much

longer period of time, because it affects every single person in this country.

We can do it. With the President's leadership and his commitment, we can get this right.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### HIGHWAY TRUST FUND RESTORATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3357, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3357) to restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1907, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I call up my amendment and ask that it be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment, as modified.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER] proposes an amendment numbered 1907, as modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To temporarily protect the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund)

Strike section 1 and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROTECTION OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND SOLVENCY.

Notwithstanding section 5 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. Law 111-5), from the amounts appropriated or made available and remaining unobligated under such Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall transfer \$7,000,000,000 to the Highway Trust Fund. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall report to each congressional committee the amounts so transferred within the jurisdiction of such committee. The amounts so transferred shall remain available without fiscal year limitation.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I urge all colleagues to come together, as the American people surely want us to do, and adopt this amendment. I truly believe this amendment is the responsible way to address the shortfall in the highway trust fund.

This amendment funds the highway trust fund shortfall by using money from the already-passed stimulus bill. That is important because otherwise we are racking up yet more deficit and more debt on top of the mountains of